

These QUESTIONS are very interesting - so is the Story of The CENTURY Prize Competition READ ABOUT IT

At an expense of thirty thousand dollars, The Century Co. lately instituted a public trial of **The Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia**, and, as it afterward proved, of all other works of reference as well. The jury in this popular trial was made up of over six thousand intelligent men and women, all of whom participated in one of the most interesting educational competitions ever conducted—"The Century Prize Competition."

One hundred and fifty questions were prepared for this contest. The topics selected covered matters of "general information" rather than of a scholastic nature. The questions were drawn from every branch of knowledge; some were interesting to lawyers, some to doctors or clergymen, and again others were framed so as to teach something to the business man or mechanic. Nearly every branch of art, literature, history and science was touched upon. The questions dealt with many facts that every man, woman, boy and girl should know; they dealt, not with theoretical, but with practical knowledge. Answering them was not drudgery; it combined pleasure with mental exercise. Thus the whole series was made extremely interesting and instructive, as they were prepared with extreme care by experts, with a view to prove the superiority of The Century as a question-answerer over all other reference works.

The public were then invited to answer these questions, basing their answers upon information contained in **The Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia**. A first prize of five hundred dollars, and thirty-four other prizes, all of gold, were offered for the best sets of answers. *More than twenty-two thousand persons* responded to the invitation, of whom over six thousand really collaborated in the test of the work to the end. These per-

sons were scattered all over the United States, and were from every walk of life. Though many of them had owned sets of The Century for some little time, yet the result of working over the prize questions was to discover new uses for their books, and really learn for the first time what a broad field of knowledge The Century covered. A search for the answers to these questions equipped the competitors with just the sort of general knowledge that gives interest to the conversation of a man of the world; they got the reputation of being "well-informed"; they acquired, also, a new pleasure in reading their newspapers and magazines.

When the answers to these questions were all received they were carefully examined and scored according to their correctness, the first prize being awarded to Mr. C. H. Payne, of the New York Bar; the second prize to Mr. A. H. Sturtevant, farmer, of Jacksonville, Ill.; the third prize to Mr. Herbert S. Brown, a student in Yale University, New Haven, Conn.; the fourth prize to Mr. Theo. L. Frothingham, lawyer, New York City; and thirty-one other prizes to persons scattered over the United States.

This, probably the most expensive and most remarkable public test that has ever been given to a publication, as stated above, cost the publishers about \$30,000; but they found that it was money well spent. It has proved to the public that **The Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia** is a reference work without a rival; that for the first time in the history of book-making there has been combined in one work the functions of more than a score of others.

Some of the one hundred and fifty questions and the answers used in this competition follow:

38 of the 150 Questions.

- 1.-In the book of Joshua, we learn that at the command of that leader "the sun stood still." In Psalm CXXIV, the psalmist says: "I prevented the dawning of the morning." Does this latter passage also refer to a miraculous suspension of the course of nature?
- 2.-"I had to put the private car to the accommodation, because the only express train going West was the limited." To what sort of limitation does the phrase "the limited" allude?
- 3.-What similarity is to be observed in the mental training of two popular writers of the 18th and 19th centuries?
- 4.-What extraordinary ceremonial procession took place in Paris on the fifty-sixth anniversary of Napoleon's landing at Cannes from Elba?
- 5.-If ten gallons of water were poured into a seven-inch pipe, how high would the water rise in the pipe?
- 6.-Which is a star stands in the second O. P. entrance, facing the centre of the stage, is the proscenium on its right or left?
- 7.-If a bird rose from the Pontine marshes and flew due west until it reached longitude 112 deg. 30 m. W., near what body of water would it then be?
- 8.-Which of the masterpieces of the painter whose child made Ruskin's reputation now hangs in Boston?
- 9.-"His or anybody else's gun." (b) "The sun's heat or anybody else's." Is (a) grammatical or not? Is (b) grammatical or not?
- 10.-Which was the more destructive volcanic outbreak in the strait of Sicily, 1868, or that of Pompeii in the year 79?
- 11.-The phrase "coiled the brain" occurs in "Hagaree." What characteristic of the brain suggests the usage "coiled" rather than "brain"?
- 12.-Name the four chief results of the betterment of the Euxine by methodical selection.
- 13.-What century excited enthusiasm in all parts of the United States and especially in New York in the latter part of November, 1863?
- 14.-What would you gather from the statement that "this new planing-machine saves time in the same way as a perfecting press"?
- 15.-Taking your departure from the general subject of piracy and reaving such practice as forcing captives to wait the plank or muzzling them, and your way to a poem, which three hundred years ago, brought to mind an honest industry, but which afterward became associated with the most heinous crimes.
- 16.-What is the approximate difference in kilometers between (a) the earth's polar diameter and (b) its equatorial diameter?
- 17.-A Paraphrase: "A silence on a loving lip." Is it more made of pure limestone reliable or unreliable when used in masonry under water?
- 18.-What four items of information can you glean from the fact that an old English country house was named after the Duke of York?
- 19.-According to the generally accepted chronology of the life of Christ, in what year did the formal teaching begin?
- 20.-Assuming that the sun's distance from the earth is exactly ninety-three million miles, how long, approximately, does it take its attractive force to traverse that interval and influence the earth's motions?
- 21.-What not occurring in 1738 was made the foundation for one of the novels of the Wizard of the North?
- 22.-Which is the worse lot, to be silly or foolish?
- 23.-Of which one among Verdi's operas was the title changed because of a crime which was committed while the piece was being performed?
- 24.-Which first found use in England, gun or gunpowder?
- 25.-If the population in Chicago, in 1891, had been double that of its population in 1890, and it continued to grow at that rate, would its population in 1894 have been greater or less than was the population of Greater London in 1891?
- 26.-Which of the three pictures bears the same title as a 17th century play?
- 27.-What (a) was the manner of death of the grandson of Hyrcanus II, and (b) which one of the conspirators who struggled against Edward IV, died under the same conditions?

- 28.-Which of Shakespeare's plays was founded on a romance by another writer published only nine or ten years before the play was produced?
- 29.-What are the more freely maculated latitudinal zones of the solar photosphere?
- 30.-Of what calculations possibly did the supporters of the Panama Canal scheme forewarn their competitors at San Juan del Norte?
- 31.-What percentage, approximately, of energy does a well-built dynamo lose in the process of converting motion into current?
- 32.-What percentage, approximately, of energy does a well-built dynamo lose in the process of converting motion into current?
- 33.-None of the melons is ripe. (b) None of the melons are ripe. Is (a) faulty English? Is (b) faulty English? Faulty or not, what does (a) mean? Faulty or not, what does (b) mean?

- 34.-"No. 'Prevented.'" In Pa. ex. 147, is used in the sense of "anticipated." "Was earlier than."
- 35.-To a limitation upon the number of cars allowed to be attached to the express train.
- 36.-Both stinked medicine.
- 37.-The entry of the German troops into Paris after the capitulation of that city in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71.
- 38.-Sixty inches, say 5 feet.

- 39.-That in the strait of Sunda, 1888.
- 40.-Because of the complexity of the organ, the brain, when referred to in the sense of the understanding, is commonly spoken of in the plural.
- 41.-Size, strength, speed and bottom (endurance).
- 42.-The centenary of the evacuation of the City of New York by the British troops, on November 26th, 1783, after the treaty of peace and independence between England and the United States.
- 43.-That the planing-machine in question planes both sides of a piece of lumber at one operation.
- 44.-Buccaneer.
- 45.-The earth's equatorial diameter exceeds its polar diameter by 43,466 kilometers, i. e., 48 kilometers, 4 hectometers, 6 decimeters and 4 meters.
- 46.-A speech in an exalted strain. (b) A silence on an island rising but little above the level of the sea.
- 47.-Mortar is not made of pure limestone, nor of any limestone. When prepared with lime made from pure limestone, it is unreliable for use in masonry under water.
- 48.-That the house was once a convent or monastery; that it is situated on or near a chain of hills; that it is also near a brook and that the brook abounds in crosses.
- 49.-In A. D. 26, when he was about 80 years old.
- 50.-No time at all.
- 51.-The Porteous Riots at Edinburgh.
- 52.-To be silly, for though the words mean nearly the same thing, "silly" denotes a still weaker and more contemptible state of mind than "foolish."
- 53.-Un ballo in maschera, originally called Gustave III.
- 54.-Guns, as engines for throwing missiles.
- 55.-Greater, by 3,165,468.
- 56.-His "Knight of Malta." Fletcher, Massinger and another wrote "The Knight of Malta," before 1619.
- 57.-Anastolus III, grandson of Hyrcanus II, was drowned at the instigation of Herod, king of Judaea. George Plantagenet, Duke of Clarence, one of the conspirators against Edward IV, was also drowned, while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London. The accounts of the fate of both rest upon tradition rather than certain knowledge.
- 58.-"As You Like It," founded on Thomas Lodge's "Rosalynde, or Euphues' Golden Legacy."
- 59.-The zones from 15 to 20 degrees of solar latitude.
- 60.-Of the possibility of the injury, by earthquakes or volcanic eruptions, of the canal which was proposed to construct from San Juan del Norte, across Nicaragua, to the Pacific Ocean.
- 61.-10 per cent. or less.
- 62.-Neither (a) nor (b) is faulty. The meaning of both phrases is the same, -that not one of the melons is ripe.
- 63.-The third viz: Do to prey.
- 64.-Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 65.-For the years 1798 to 1818.
- 66.-Bad head.
- 67.-Compactness, effective steaming capacity and economy in consumption of fuel.

NO CLAIMANT FOR THIS SPECIAL PRIZE.

A special prize of \$500 was offered to any person who could answer successfully 90 per cent (135 of the 150) of these 150 questions without the aid of **The Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia**, but using instead of it any ten other works of reference.

Out of the 4,800 persons who tried for this special prize no one has yet succeeded in answering the 135 questions without using decidedly more than ten books. It is of interest to know that among the books most largely used were:

<i>The Encyclopedia Britannica</i> (with Sup.),	30	<i>Wheeler's Noted Names of Fiction</i> ,	1
<i>Johnson's Cyclopaedia</i> ,	8	<i>Imperial Dictionary</i> ,	1
<i>Standard Dictionary</i> ,	2	<i>Bartlett's Familiar Quotations</i> ,	1
<i>International Cyclopaedia</i> ,	15	<i>Haydn's Dictionary of Dates or Harper's Book of Facts</i> ,	1
<i>History for Ready Reference</i> ,	5	<i>Schaff's History of the English Church</i> ,	6
<i>Grove's Dictionary of Music</i> ,	5	<i>Webster's International Dictionary</i> ,	1
<i>Earth and Its Inhabitants</i> ,	19	TOTAL Number of Volumes ,	100
<i>Allibone's Dictionary of Authors</i> ,	5		

This offer was made in order to invite comparison between **The Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia** and other works. Any dictionary or cyclopaedia, or other work containing any number of volumes might be used and counted as one of the ten works.

- 68.-Which syllable of the name of the author of the novel "Crime and Punishment" takes the stress?
- 69.-If a man travelled westward unceasingly from Peking, what old possessing more than a million, and less than a million and a half of inhabitants, would he encounter?
- 70.-How long was Lord Byron owner of Newstead Abbey?
- 71.-What is the significance of the surname of the husband of the historical character represented by Macbeth in Shakespeare's tragedy?
- 72.-What are the three primary characteristics of a good boiler for an ocean steamer?

- 73.-On his left.
- 74.-Over the Great Salt Lake.
- 75.-The Slave Ship, by J. W. M. Turner.
- 76.-It is not faulty. (b) is faulty, since it uses the three words "any body else" equivalent to "any other body" as a unit attaching the possessive suffix to the whole phrase, as if it had been composed of the pronoun, anybody, with else, as in (a). The use of "else" in the sense of "other" in this phrase, is also incorrect, if not strictly incorrect.

LETTERS FROM THE PRIZE-WINNERS.

The following letters were all written before the results of the Competition were published, and are, therefore, doubly interesting in that they show that the writers had not regretted the time spent on the papers, whether they should win prizes or not:

CAPTURED FIRST PRIZE.

Mr. C. H. Payne, of the New York Bar, awarded \$500 in Gold.

Office of C. H. PAYNE, Attorney-at-Law,
114 Duane Building, New York.

THE CENTURY CO.—As a practical book of reference upon questions of all kinds, **The Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia** is admirable. I have consulted it frequently, since I owned it, on a great variety of points, to answer questions about the meaning of words, about dates, historical events and persons, about a great variety of things which I have come across in reading, in conversation, or in everyday life, and I have never failed to get from it a full, clear, compact and satisfactory explanation of what I wanted to know. The clear arrangement of the matter under the various heads and the fullness of the references are very useful features of the work.

The Competition has certainly taught me a good deal both about the use of the work and about various matters touched on by the questions, and it has impressed me greatly with the breadth of the field covered and the vast fund of information contained in it.

C. H. PAYNE.

WON FIFTH PRIZE.

Letter from a Railroad Man who was awarded \$25.

Office of BALTIMORE AND OHIO SOUTHWESTERN BY. CO.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

THE CENTURY CO.—The constant use of **The Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia** during the recent prize competition has only confirmed the high estimate I formed of its value when its volumes first came in successive installments from the press. I still consider it the most scholarly reference work that has ever appeared in America, while its charm of illustration and general typographic beauty is stands out prominently. It is a complete encyclopedia in matter, and a masterpiece in style. It is a treasure of information, complete, well in spelling and pronunciation it has from the first been regarded as the standard authority.

The prize competition will unquestionably have a wide educational influence, and prove instrumental in inspiring a love of fully and developed use of the thought and precise expression. I am a household, too, by participation in this contest, there has doubtless resulted a vast accession of practical knowledge and an unexpected revelation of the intellectual treasures that the greatest of reference works contains.

WILBER DEBOS.

NO DUSTER NEEDED.

How a Prize-winner kept the Books Clean.

2 Dupont Circle, Washington, D. C.

THE CENTURY CO.—Nothing could have been planned to teach one how to use **The Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia** better than giving out these questions in this interesting prize competition. We handled every volume many times and already feel it an old friend, and like a tried and true one, consult it constantly.

With many thanks for the pleasure you have afforded us,
MRS. ANSON MILLS.

A MINE OF WEALTH.

Mr. Holliday, of St. Louis, learned how to Extract the Precious Metals from this Mine.

Law Office of Joseph G. Holliday,
305 Olive St., Room 1, St. Louis.

THE CENTURY CO.—I entered this contest primarily with the idea of providing some entertainment for my leisure moments, and with very little expectation of being successful. But, to me, the great benefit derived from entering this contest lies, not in the additional to my fund of general information, nor in the entertainment afforded, nor even in the confirmation of my previously held opinion that **The Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia** is indeed a mine of wealth, but in the experience gained in the proper methods of extracting the precious metals from this mine. This experience furnished me with an insight into the thorough manner of the compilation of the Century, and the a careful and careful cooperation between its various departments, which will be invaluable in the future use of the work, and insures a feeling of confidence that if you do not find what you are after under one head you are very sure to be furnished with a "tracer" or reference to the proper heading. Yours truly,
JOSEPH G. HOLLIDAY.

The Century Takes the Place of Thirty Other Works.

- Here is a list of some special works which it has superseded:
- 1.—An Encyclopedia of Common Things, with 7,687 illustrations of birds, animals, plants, buildings, tools, machines, musical instruments, statues, etc.
 - 2.—A Complete Defining Dictionary.
 - 3.—A complete Atlas of the World, containing the most perfect and beautiful maps ever published.
 - 4.—A Biographical Cyclopaedia, giving an account of every person of importance, from Adam down.
 - 5.—A Gazetteer of the World, including nearly 200,000 geographical names.
 - 6.—A complete Pronouncing Cyclopaedia of Proper Names.
 - 7.—A Cyclopaedia of Historical Information and dates, battles, wars, political parties, Congresses, treaties, councils, with exact dates, and the results of latest census.
 - 8.—A Cyclopaedia of Commerce, Finance, Banking, Insurance.
 - 9.—A Practical Cyclopaedia of Arts and Trades.
 - 10.—A Compendium of Legal Terms, with references to cases.
 - 11.—A Compendium of Scientific Terms, giving the result of the very latest research and thought in every department of science, such as botany, geology, zoology, biology, mineralogy, physics.
 - 12.—A Compendium of Theological Terms.
 - 13.—A Cyclopaedia of Medicine, Surgery, Physiology, Anatomy.
 - 14.—A Glossary of Military and Nautical Terms.
 - 15.—A Compendium of Terms in Engineering.
 - 16.—A Complete Glossary of Electrical Terms.
 - 17.—A Cyclopaedia of art and archaeology, mythology, sculpture, ceramics, lacquer work, enamel, embroidery, heraldry, armor and dress—all beautifully illustrated.
 - 18.—Handbook of Architectural Terms.
 - 19.—An Astronomical Dictionary, with definitions and illustrations of constellations, etc.
 - 20.—Dictionary of Music.
 - 21.—A Treasury of Quotations, familiar and unfamiliar—about 300,000.
 - 22.—A Glossary of Abbreviations, in alphabetical order. Not a haphazard list at end of dictionary.
 - 23.—A Dictionary of Philology and Etymology, showing the history of words more fully than any other work.
 - 24.—A Standard of Spelling and Pronunciation.
 - 25.—A Complete Collection of Synonyms.
 - 26.—A Handbook of Names in Fiction, Poetry and Drama.
 - 27.—A Standard Dictionary of Technical and Mechanical Terms, measures, coins, tools, machines, etc., richly illustrated.
 - 28.—A Handbook of Literature, giving the names and descriptions of all well-known books, plays, poems, operas.
 - 29.—A Bible Dictionary. Tells of the different books of the Bible, as well as all places and persons named.
 - 30.—A Handbook of Popular Names and Nicknames, as "Nutmeg" State for Connecticut, "Box" for Dickens, "Maid of Orleans" for Joan of Arc, the "Rail-Splitter" for Lincoln.



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